



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 7/27/2004

**GAIN Report Number:** TH4081

## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

**2004**

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices for non-fragrant rice changed insignificantly, as the weakening Thai Baht offset the current upward price pressure.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jul 26):**

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	405	385	485	426	415	395	390	414	429
WR 100 B	242	240	249	241	239	240	235	241	240
PB 5%	245	240	253	247	246	255	240	247	245
WR 5%	237	235	243	236	234	235	230	236	234
WR 10%	235	230	238	233	232	233	225	232	231
WR 15%	234	228	233	231	230	231	220	230	229
WR 25%	229	225	232	226	226	225	215	225	225
WR 35%	225	223	231	224	224	223	210	223	222
A 1 SUP	215	215	222	211	213	212	210	214	212
A 1 SPEC	214	214	221	209	211	-	208	213	210
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

**Market Tone**

Despite continued pending shipment demand of white rice for Iran and Iraq and strong demand for parboiled rice from African countries, export prices changed insignificantly, as the weakening Thai Baht reportedly offset the current upward price pressure. At the moment, price quotes are based on around 41.20 Baht/U.S.\$, as compared to the previous week's average of 40.98 Baht/U.S.\$. Trade sources reported that some exporters, particularly those who have no outstanding contracts, stayed away from the market, because of concerns over the current price volatility. Also, Thai rice exporters and millers are suspicious of the Commerce Minister's policy on the paddy mortgage scheme, for which such high intervention prices will lead to market distortions. The new intervention prices for 100% grade white rice paddy in the second crop were reportedly adjusted to the record 5,900 Baht/ton (roughly US\$ 148/ton) during the extension period of mortgage scheme for second crop from Aug. 1 – Sep. 30, 2004. Meanwhile, the intervention prices for coming major crop's mortgage scheme (Nov.1, 2004 – Feb. 28, 2005) will likely increase by about 1,000 Baht/ton (roughly US\$ 25/ton).

As for fragrant rice, export prices continued to decline, fueled by the weakening Thai Baht. Also, the Thai Commerce Ministry is reportedly scheduled to put around 160,000 tons of fragrant paddy (107,000 tons milled equivalent) up for auction on July 28, 2004. Most of rice were old crop in MY 2001/02 – MY 2002/03.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JUN 6	171,411	162,900	2,923	1,796
JUN 13	178,740	161,573	3,102	1,902
JUN 20	181,515	172,333	3,283	1,985
JUN 27	179,774	177,860	3,463	2,080
JUL 4	210,928	187,739	3,674	2,184
JUL 11	161,618	183,459	3,836	2,287
JUL 18	178,271	182,648	4,014	2,413
JUL 25	197,424	187,060	4,212	2,524

*Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Jul 19-25, 2004 totaled 197,424 tons, up 19,152 tons from the previous week's total and up 10,363 tons from the four-week moving average of 187,060 tons. Exports during Jan 1 – Jul 25, 2004 totaled 4,211,511 tons, compared with 2,524,292 tons during the same period in 2003.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan 1- Jul 12, 2004, amounted to 4,962,107 tons, up 41 percent from 3,519,262 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Jul 5-9, Jul 12-16, and Jul 19-23, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Jul 5-9	Jul 12-16	Jul 19-23
weekly sales	199,811	177,116	203,947
4 week sum	671,644	629,608	684,435
4 week mov. avg.	167,911	157,402	171,109
Total weekly sales	4,662,373	4,839,489	5,043,436

End of Report.